



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 23 MAY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have long refrained from providing counter-arguments to the countless letters and "fact-sheets" routinely sent into circulation by the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, considering it a waste of time to refute propaganda. But the striking absurdity of the accusation against the Republic of Armenia of annexationist plans in relation to the Azerbaijani Republic made in the letter of 17 May 1994 (S/1994/591) from Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Mr. Hassan Hassanov to the President of the Security Council compels me to bring to your attention the misinformation this letter contains.

Leaving aside the overall groundlessness of Mr. Hassanov's accusations and the unidentified nature of his information sources, I would like to illustrate my argument with several examples.

"Airudzi" (Horsemen), which Mr. Hassanov believes is a charitable alliance, was a jockey club that ceased to exist in 1991 as a result of financial difficulties. Even if the club still operated, it would have been extremely hard for it to find its place under the auspices of the "Armenian monarchic party" for the simple reason that no such entity exists in Armenia. Indeed, the last royal institution in Armenia existed in the fourteenth century.

As has been repeatedly stated, the Armenian regular army does not participate in the Nagorny-Karabakh-Azerbaijan conflict, and Armenian conscripts are not sent outside the borders of the Republic of Armenia; therefore, they cannot be exempted from "military service in the zone of military operations in Nagorny Karabakh". As far as the Armenian volunteers are concerned, namely, those people who have chosen of their own free will to expose themselves to the dangers of war to defend the Armenian population, obviously they would hardly think of settling down in the temporarily captured territories that are to be returned according to both the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and Russian peace plans signed by Nagorny Karabakh.

The last, but most important point, is that the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister misrepresents the facts by speaking about "the unwillingness of the Armenian side to proceed to a peaceful settlement of the bloody conflict", whereas in reality the facts speak for themselves, attesting to the opposite.

Paying lip-service to peace efforts, the Azeri side has repeatedly rejected the CSCE peace plans and has jeopardized the most recent peace plan by abandoning the Russian Federation-brokered cease-fire talks in Moscow on 17 May. This plan provides for a reliable mechanism for disengagement of combatants through introduction of peace-keeping forces into the conflict area, followed by the withdrawal of the Karabakh self-defence units from the captured territories and the return of refugees. It has been signed by both Armenia and Nagorny Karabakh. However, the Azerbaijani side has failed to prove its genuine commitment to the establishment of peace.

Instead, it has chosen to come up with groundless accusations against the Republic of Armenia, blaming it for "blatant disregard for Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993)", which, in fact, call on the sides to take those very steps towards peace that are reflected in both the CSCE peace plan and the Russian Federation-brokered cease-fire agreement.

This is being done when the CSCE Minsk Group, through the tireless efforts of its Chairman, is trying to integrate the cease-fire plan into its comprehensive peace settlement, and the world community is waiting for Azerbaijan to put its pen to either of these documents, thus making the long-awaited peace a reality.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative
